



Wellesley Friends of Recycling, Inc. 49 Shore Road, Wellesley, MA 02482
A nonprofit corporation dedicated to increasing awareness of the 3 Rs – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

F.O.R. Wellesley Take and Leave Highlights 2008 and Opening 2009

There is big excitement coming this year with the addition of a new covered area planned for the site but first we would like to review what happened with the “Take and Leave” (T&L) in CY 2008. When we reported last year the quantifiable benefits to the town it was because CY 2007 was the first year that the staff at the RDF monitored the weight of the material that was removed from the T&L and recycled. When we looked at various assumptions in addition to those facts we were able to provide a rough estimate of the benefits to the town as a result of the volunteer efforts by the Friends of Recycling for calendar year 2007. In CY 2008 the benefits were similar but per the table below there were several differences worth examining.

The total number of individual volunteers was slightly lower in 2008. While not indicated on the table this was offset by the number of core volunteers who gave more of their time. We can always use more volunteers and the way to do so is at the end of this article.

In CY08 there was less material recycled from T&L by a little over 8 tons. This could mean several things:

- a) There was less left at T&L.
- b) There was about the same amount left but a higher percentage was taken.
- c) More of the material that was not taken in 2007 was pure waste and not recyclable.
- d) A combination of these factors.

While there is no way to be sure exactly why it occurred there is a feeling among the volunteers that there was the same or even more material being “left” and more of it was “taken” because the area was both expanded and better organized in 2008. The volunteers felt a bit more than 2/3 of the material that was left at the Take and Leave was taken away by other residents usually on the same day. The T&L volunteers help the RDF employees with cleaning up the area on Mondays. We have found that of the material from the T&L that didn’t get taken away about 90% was recyclable.

The market value for recyclables sold by the RDF increased over CY07 from \$70 to \$80. This stronger market enabled an increase in the value of the items sold. In the end the increase in the value received per ton was offset by the lower volume so that the total increase in revenue was only 3%. In addition the reduced tonnage had an overall effect to lower the cost avoidance savings by 10% so that in the end the total cost savings to the town actually decreased by a negligible 2%. Since that total is still over \$84,000 in one calendar year we feel very good about the quantifiable success in terms of dollar impact.

There are many other benefits such as helping the RDF staff with placement of material in proper areas for recycling, being a good thing to do for the environment and for Town Citizens. The effort is also an enjoyable pursuit for the volunteers and a few volunteers have been able to take advantage of the senior service tax benefits. There is also the “halo effect” of helping those in need as documented last year.

Back to the excitement of this year's covered structure. Funds were approved for a T&L structure two budgets ago but the amount was not really adequate to make it happen. With the help of the difficult economy, Gordon Martin, the RDF Superintendent has been able to get a structure that will fit on the T&L area. The structure will be a permanent fabric building similar in quality to the current transfer haul building but much smaller. Unlike the larger building the T&L structure will not be fully enclosed. It will have openings on both ends and even the sides will not be covered all the way to the ground. The T&L still needs to be accessible to the equipment needed to clean the site and to have a structure with sides to the ground would be much more expensive. Since the T&L is open in the warmer months it was felt that it would be better to have more air flow.

Last year the T&L area was expanded from 3000 square feet to 5000 square feet. The plans for the new T&L structure were discussed for hours between the volunteers and the RDF staff during our meetings. It will be 40 X 40 feet and located at the center of the T&L area. The location was dictated by the topography of the land and the ability to add as needed in the future. Should the building be outgrown there will still be room to add another structure if needed. The greatest benefit of this new capability will be that FOR members will be able to save more of the best material and keep it longer for the benefit of the "shoppers" who "take" from the area. The building is in the final permitting stages and the structure has already been delivered to the site. If all goes according to the plans the building will be in place between the first and third weeks in April and the T&L weather permitting will open at that time. Look for signs at the RDF and notice will be given through the Townsman.

Our goal for CY 2009 is to continue to improve the experience for those who use the T&L. We've implemented a more robust training effort for our volunteers for next year that we've worked on during the winter months. Hopefully with this effort there will be a more consistent approach by all the volunteer teams. We still need the cooperation of the "shoppers" to only stay the allotted time and there will be more careful monitoring this year by the RDF employees of nonresidents of Wellesley. With these changes and the new covered structure we expect a better experience and better material for all to enjoy this year.

Table 1**Take and Leave (T&L) Benefits to Wellesley**

<i>Facts:</i>	<i>CY 2007</i>	<i>CY 2008</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Volunteers individuals total season	121	109	-10%
Volunteers individuals per week	40	40	
T&L Hours Staffed each week	45	45	
Total Weeks Take and Leave Was Open	36	36	
Volunteer Hours –			
Weekly staffing of the area =	91	91	
Weekly Cleanup Hours =	18	18	
Coordinating Volunteers ~ per week =	4	4	
Annual plan/support hours ~ per week =	1	1	
Total hours per week =	114	114	
Total volunteer hours =	4104	4104	
Equivalent FTE =	2+	2+	
2 FTE value at lowest DPW pay grade =	\$60,000	\$60,000	
Tons of material recycled from the area	88.74	79.55	-10%
Average CY value per ton	\$70	\$80	14%
Sold material value (Tons X CY avg.) =	\$6,200	\$6,364	3%
Cost per ton in CY to landfill	\$77	\$77	
Recyclables Cost avoidance (Tons X CY avg.)	\$6,800	\$6,125	-10%
<i>Consistent observations:</i>			
Material taken to be reused	~ 67 %	~ 67 %	
Remaining 33% of material recycled	~ 90%	~ 90%	
<i>Extrapolated assumptions:</i>			
Material reused (Recycle tons X 2) =	177.48	159.1	-10%
Cost avoidance (Tons X CY avg. X 2) =	\$13,600	\$12,251	-10%
<i>Summary of quantifiable benefits to the Town:</i>			
2 FTE value at lowest DPW pay grade =	\$60,000	\$60,000	
Sold material value (Tons X CY avg.) =	\$6,200	\$6,200	
Cost avoidance for recyclables (Tons X CY avg.)	\$6,800	\$6,125	-10%
Cost avoidance (Tons X CY avg. X 2) =	\$13,600	\$12,251	-10%
Grand Total =	\$86,600	\$84,576	-2%

In addition to the regular taking by a broad number of residents some of the interesting stories last year from the T&L volunteers were:

The Wellesley High School drama club made almost all of their props for one show and picked up something for each of their plays.

Kindergarten and grade school teachers picked up many classroom teaching aids.

Schofield Scouts used furniture from T&L for a fundraiser.

One resident visits to get mugs that she brings to local nursing homes.

Coloring books were shipped to Africa.

Toys were sent to relatives in South America.

A gentleman brought the wrong box of items – when he called the RDF they said come back but don't expect the items to be there. Luckily one of the volunteers sensed something was wrong when she saw the items and had them safe and sound for the gentleman when he returned very worried his wife would be heartbroken.

A family was thrilled to get a large china cabinet they had always wanted

There are a lot of people involved in making this program work. While we had 109 different volunteers last year some of the key volunteers spend a lot of time doing both the work and the coordination that keeps the Take and Leave area working. The founder and guiding force of the T&L volunteers is the Take and Leave Chairperson – Joany Sasso. The volunteers were coordinated in 2008 by the following people on the days noted:

M and T and Cleanup Team Captain – JoAnne Jones

Wednesday Team Captain – Ely Sherman

Thursday Team Captain – Bill Maloney

Friday Team Captain – Jim Olsen (also F.O.R. Chairman)

Saturday and Sunday (when needed) Team Captain – Barbara Faubert

Did you know that Senior Citizens who qualify can get Wellesley property tax credits based on certain volunteer activities? Volunteering at the Take and Leave is an accepted activity. We had people qualify for these credits this year.

Our group enjoys the valuable service we perform for the Town and we welcome others to join us. One can work in a variety of ways or times so please contact us by speaking with Cathy at 781-235-3700

x3345 and all are invited to attend our monthly meetings on the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30PM at DPW Board room at the Public Works office next to the Fire house at the corner of Rt. 9 and Rt. 16.

Frank Hays 49 Shore Road 781-237-1990 F.O.R. President

Hi Cathy, Here's this year's update and notice of new activity at the RDF. It has a table and I've also included it in a .xls format if that would be helpful. Hopefully you can find space for this please let me know any questions. Best, Frank 781-856-7767 (cell)